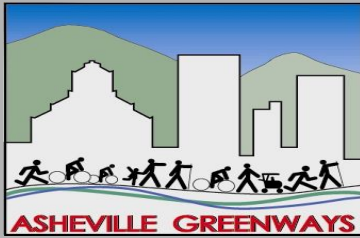


## GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 13, 2014

3:30-5:00 pm

First Floor Conference Room-City Hall



## GREENWAY COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of Asheville's Greenway Commission is to advise City Council on implementation of a system of greenways within Asheville by integrating City and County Parks and Transportation plans while educating and engaging the public and advocating for funding.

**Members Present:** Sue Barlow, Chairman, Bryan Mitchell, Secretary, Mary Weber, Jim Grode, Marcia Bromberg.

**Staff Present:** Mariate Echeverry, Transportation Planning Manager.

**Community Present:** John Ridout, Amy Vanden Heuvel, David Kaufman-Moore, External Relations Officer, UNC-Asheville.

- Chairman Barlow called the meeting to order at 3:32.

**•Review and approval of 3-13-14 agenda:**

Changes to agenda:

1. Add Multi-Modal Transportation Committee Update
2. Add Community Outreach
3. Remove City Planning - Blake Update
4. Add Parks and Rec - Roderick Update

Jim moved and Marcia seconded and carried unanimously.

- **Review and approval of 2-20-14 minutes:** Marcia moved to approve the minutes as written, Mary seconded and carried unanimously.

**Staff Updates:**

- **Transportation Update:** Mariate reported updates on a list of projects:

1. See the attached List of Projects. A few items of note follow.
2. East of the Riverway Wrap-Up Presentation will take place Tuesday, March 18, 6pm at Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center.
3. The Multi-Modal Transportation Plan project is moving forward but slower than anticipated. The city is looking to engage a consultant by the end of March.
4. The French Broad River Greenway (Duke Energy property) is beginning the RFQ evaluation process in April and Marcia has volunteered to take part in the evaluation committee from the MMTC. City Council approved the property's donation to the city at a meeting a few weeks ago. They city is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Duke Energy at present. The transfer of land will take place after construction is finished in the fall of 2014.
5. Clingman Forest and Town Branch Greenways are nearing completion with the construction drawings. The GC has requested a presentation by the consultants at our April meeting if possible.

- **PRCA Update:** No update, Roderick Simmons was not in attendance.

**New Business:**

- **Vice-Chair Appointment** - Sue presented:

1. A resolution to fill the vacant vice chair seat. Marcia moved to nominate Bryan. Jim seconded and it passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

- **Recruitment of New Greenway Committee Members:** Sue reported:

1. The GC has completed an evaluation process of eleven candidates to fill open seats on the committee. She put forth four candidates the GC has recommended to the MMTC for approval. Marcia moved and Mary seconded and the recommendation passed unanimously. The candidates are:
  - a. Kim Williams
  - b. Rich Lee
  - c. Amy Vanden Heuvel
  - d. John Ridout
2. Sue and Marcia will provide new members with information to bring them up to speed prior to the next meeting.
3. Marcia recommends a planning session with new members over the summer.

### **Greenway Committee Updates:**

- **Friends of Connect Buncombe County (FOCB) Update:** Marcia reported:

1. The origins and mission of the group to people in attendance. The group is actively working to advance the Greenways and Trails Master Plan and construction of greenways throughout Buncombe County.
2. FOCB will be starting with the planned path from Hominy Creek to the NC Arboretum.
3. The walk from Hominy Creek Greenway to the Farmers Market is slated for November 2014.
4. The group is researching ways to coordinate funding endeavors in collaboration with like-minded groups.
5. Marcia discussed liaison positions for new members. The groups needing representation from GC are Parks and Recreation Foundation, Friends of Connect Buncombe, Recreation Advisory Board. The GC also discussed the need of appointing a new member for external communications.
6. Marcia would like for everyone to consider joining FOCB as members for \$35.

- **Community Outreach Committee Report:** Sue reported:

1. She would like all of us to speak to citizens and communicate in an organized way with talking points. GC has a slideshow available to help with presentations.
2. Marcia presented to the Asheville Sierra Club on greenways recently. She will approach the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to look into either teaching a course on greenways or doing a Friday lunch presentation on greenways.
3. Bryan reminded the GC that the Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway has worked with the city to develop a master plan for the park which will be shown next week at an open house, Wednesday, 3/19, at Riverlink from 4-7pm.

- **Multi-Modal Transportation Commission (MMTC):** Mary stated:

1. Dana Davis from the Parks and Greenway Foundation gave a presentation on the background of the organization. The group has lots of different initiatives and is embarking on a capital campaign to raise \$275,000 this year. The group can be found online at [myashevilleparks.org](http://myashevilleparks.org).
2. Kris Hinz from the Bike and Ped Task Force presented on Bike There 2016. The endeavor will take place during the 2016 US Cyclocross National Championships taking place in Asheville. The group is planning on making bike connections across the city for the event by roadway.
3. MMTC approved three permanent street closures - a portion of Asheland Avenue; an unnamed alley off South Ann Street; and University Heights with a portion of Edgewood Road with the understanding that no gates be in place and public access will still be provided.
4. Strive Not To Drive week will be May 16-23 this year.

### **Final Comments:**

- The GC discussed the recent Asheville Citizen-Times article on the completion of the connection of the Reed Creek Greenway. David Kaufman-Moore from UNC-A also took part in the discussion. Construction on the section will begin in April and be completed by the end of the summer 2014. Mary

commented that she was glad to see that funding happened fairly quickly. She also commented that it is still difficult to connect with the greenway from Weaver Park at the Merrimon Avenue crossing. It is still dangerous for pedestrians to connect to the greenway system from the neighborhoods on the east side of Merrimon Avenue due to this intersection.

Sue Adjourned at 4:30 pm